Dear Paul, 12/6/90

Although it is not necessary with regard to much of what I'll say, I don't want to get involved in any ~~new~~ controversies because I'm not now up to them, so please regard this as confidential Reur 12/1, 11/22/90, from the top.

Is there anything of any value in The Ruby Affair and Who Killed JFK?

You describe Melanson's The Murkin Conspiracy as "fascinating." The only way in which it is you were only partly in a position to detect, perhaps more but I recall one- Jules Kimble. And only someone not intellectually capable of digesting a decent spy mystery could possible accept what he based on Kimble. The critics, in general, are rewriting new spook mythologies, without regard to any realities or how they work. It is also a very bad and a very dishonest work. By a man who continues to stake his claim to owning the political assassinations in an even worse book, The Spy Saga. I don't want to go into all of it now, and there is really very much, but if you have any doubt at all, please ask Dave Wrone.

Now it happens that Greenwood Press, not Praeger, which owns it, asked Dave and me to read and comment on the Spy Saga ms. When I got into it, with as clear a recollection of I have of the crookedness, the rampant dishonesty, the utter irrationality of the terrible & evil The Murkin Conspiracy (of which I have a long analysis for archival purpose, not for circulation), I decided to do much more than is usually done and to be explicit and to skip very little. I sent them more than 80 of these pages, single spaced. It is that wrong, that very bad. Dave has a copy and can give you his evaluation of the ms and of what I did. I heard nothing from Greenwood and I did answer their question, might they show it to the author, by saying not only that they could but that I'd respond to anything he had to say in writing. I've heard nothing from him. Then Dave picked a copy up in a book store and phoned me. He simply could not believe that anyone would publish any book as bad as ~~he~~ this, independently, before he saw what I'd written, found that to be. I got a copy at a local store, just to have to answer any questions, and I made only a spot check in the index. He had built a major part of this rot on that same Kimble! I had sent Greenwood, because that was so important in the ms, documentary proof that it was all lousy fiction, not in any sense true. So I checked the index under Kimble - and he isn't there. I'm not bothering to check anything else. I add only that there was extensive cribbing in the ms. Some of which I noted. I don't know why Greenwood would not put its name on the book. It is Praeger's. Perhaps it is Greenwood's claim to publish only the scholarly.

Anyone who can believe any part of the Ricky White story would buy the Brooklyn Bridge. ANY part. And anyone who would believe that any intelligence agency would put such stuff on paper is entirely ignorant of intelligence agencies. Anywhere, not just here.

You say that someone should check the Texas AG files on the DPD. I gave ~~but~~ and a set of prints from microfilm of it. So why didn't he check, if he didn't, and why don't you

ask him to? And when the story is so palpably impossible, why check to find whether Rocky and LHO ever met each other or were photographed together? Nothing better to do that prove the world is flat?

AARC has held itself back only for public consumption. Bud is still hot on it. I had a visit several weeks ago from Hemming and Roy Hargraves. They said they were workind for Bud on this.

On Clay Shaw I'll have a copy of an article that appeared in England for you. I'd forgotten until he phoned me yesterday but some months ago I helped a ~~xx~~ writer who did the story. This fellow checked out all the British addresses Shaw had posted, going back in particular to the 1940s. There were extensive connections just one man removed from the Cambridge cirle of spies for the USSR, of whom Philby is the most famous. He also had one deep love and other such connections there.

I've read Moore's monstrous Conspiracy of One, with the modest subtitle, my emphasis, The Definitive Book on the Kennedy Assassination. He didn't mean Bobby. I also don't want to get involved in any controversy about it, but I can't recall a more dishonest and in all other ways as bad a book, expect possibly for Melanson's, which may be worse because he boasts of his academic credentials, and status as one of us critics. Unless you collect garbage or horror stories you have no use for it. There isn't a single fact relating to the assassination in it save for a few of the things he plagiarized. And most if not all that he stole he also misused. At the very end he admitted that his purpose was to clobber the critics and that we needed clobbering. So don't mention any of this for a different reason. As a high-school egomaniac he was in touch with me. He quotes letters I do not have. I've written him to ask him for copies and I'd like to get them. Not that I think he'll be sure to do if if he hears nothing of my reading his swill. Not, it isn't even that good. That is eated by pigs.

You mention Tony Summers. His Hoover book should be about done. Heard anything?

Hope you are all well and happy,

Harold